



Building consultant Mick Wilson explains the inner workings of construction as working party members stare up in awe at the inside of the six-storey flytower.

Construction reaches halfway

Dubbo Regional Theatre and Convention Centre still on track for April 2010 opening

Staring up at the six-storey flytower of Dubbo's soon to be completed Regional Theatre and Convention Centre (DRTCC), it is not hard to envisage the beauty of *Swan Lake* or the drama of *Phantom of the Opera* gracing the stage of this breath-taking complex.

Dubbo City Council's \$18.5m project is now nearing the halfway construction mark and is visibly taking shape. The flytower stands out clearly on the City skyline and various aspects of the Centre can now be visualised. The stage opening, flytower access, side walkway and orchestra pit are among the features of Dubbo's newest performing arts venue.

A stroll through the construction site with building consultant Mick Wilson reveals the location of the all-important green room, manager's area and ticket office.

He is a wealth of knowledge on the project and happily supplies information about the landscaping, carpark, insulation and acoustics of the Theatre.

By the end of July 2009, the Centre is set to be enclosed and Council's DRTCC Working Party is already excitedly selecting interior colour schemes.

DRTCC Manager Alan Youngson is also keeping busy, planning for the opening of the new state-of-the-art venue.

He said the Darling Street development is on track to be officially opened in April 2010 after construction is completed next February. Once operational, the theatre and convention facility will be linked to the existing Dubbo Civic Centre, making for a first-class, all-purpose venue that will intertwine 1960s chic with modern architecture.

It will also provide a separate rehearsal and performance space in the case of theatrical shows, while convention participants will have the option of conference display and presentation space, along with an auditorium for dinner functions.

"By this time next year, we will be enjoying this wondrous new facility." – Mayor Greg Matthews

While the show schedule is yet to be released, Mr Youngson assures that the new multi-purpose Centre will feature everything from trade shows to weddings, along with theatre performances.

He also indicated that local companies and groups would be given first preference for dates and touring shows would work around existing bookings.

Mayor Greg Matthews is thrilled with the project's progress.

"It is rapidly moving ahead," he said. "By this time next year, we will be enjoying this wondrous new facility."

Employment opportunities

The Dubbo Regional Theatre Convention Centre (DRTCC) is fast becoming a reality with operational staff now being appointed.

DRTCC manager Alan Youngson has put out the call for an Operations Co-ordinator who will largely deal with the day-to-day running of the new 500-seat tiered theatre, and the existing multi-function 700-seat flat floor Civic Centre.

"This key position reports to me and will provide the successful applicant with an opportunity to expand their experience and knowledge of performing arts, entertainment,

conferences and functions," Mr Youngson said.

"The job will entail working with a diversity of hirers including commercial promoters, event organisers, local performing arts companies, education and community organisations, government and businesses, as well as working co-operatively with the Technical/ Production Co-ordinator and Front of House/ Function Co-ordinator."

Applications for this exciting position closed on Friday, 22 May and Council now has the task of selecting a successful candidate.

Subscribe to www.dubbo.nsw.gov.au/yourcouncil/careers.html for instant notifications when more theatre positions are advertised.



DRTCC Working Party members Cr Matthew Dickerson, Mayor Greg Matthews, Vicki Canalese, Cr Allan Smith, Director Corporate Development Megan Dixon, Chris Bray, Cr Peter Bartley and General Manager Mark Riley.

CONSTRUCTION TIMELINES

Please note: all timelines are subject to weather conditions and may change.

April/May

- Loading dock roof installed
- Basement roof complete
- Precast auditorium walls erected
- Tenders being considered for design, supply and installation of technical equipment

25 May

- DRTCC Working Party inspection

May/June

- Stage area encasement of columns
- Walls and ceiling to flytower area
- Structural steel to auditorium
- Ground floor change room part 1

For further construction updates please visit www.dubbo.nsw.gov.au



Access stairways lead from the ground all the way up to the top level inside the flytower.